

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 52

Question 1

- a) David was on the run from Saul. While fleeing, he stopped to pick up supplies and guidance from Ahimelech the priest. Doeg the Edomite, Saul's "head shepherd," spotted David in the temple and reported Ahimelech's apparent treason to Saul—who then called the priests of Nob and had Doeg put them to death. He killed 85 priests and decimated the entire town (1 Sam. 22:9-23). Psalm 52 is David's outcry against Doeg's action.
- b) The word 'boast' does not necessarily imply an outward show. It points to man's self-satisfaction.
- c) There is irony in David's use of the title "*mighty man*" when addressing Doeg.
- d) Whatever man does is under the control of God and cannot change His nature. His steadfast love endures.
- e) This is our confidence and trust in the darkest times of our lives.

Question 2

- a) They boast in the evil they commit.
- b) Their talk is filled with lies and deceit, and they use their tongue like a razor to cut people down with untruths and harmful words.
- c) They love evil more than good and falsehood more than truth.
- d) They love to destroy people for their own gain.

Question 3

- a) The destiny of the wicked is final destruction. The destiny of the righteous is future delight.
- b) Note the difference in what both groups trust in and how reliable those things prove to be.
- c) The godly look in verse 6 and see the futility of the way of the wicked.

Question 4

- a) Robert Alden describes verse 7 as reading "*like an epitaph on the grave of an evil man*".
- b) Notice in this verse that those who have rejected God have their lives characterised by self: trusting in "*his riches*"; finding refuge in "*his own work of destruction*".
- c) This is about who controls our destiny!
- d) Examples of New Testaments parallels can be found in **Mark 8:34-37; Luke 12:15-21; James 5:1-6**.

Question 5

- a) Olive trees are productive, attractive, and some of the longest-living trees.
- b) What a contrast to the wicked who are uprooted and unfruitful.
- c) This is confidence in God's unchanging nature. **Psalm 1:3-6** express similar sentiments.

Question 6

- a) David's confidence in a tragic situation leads him to thankfulness.
- b) He is trusting in the right things that last; because of what God has done.
- c) Notice that this means he is content to wait on God to act; that is trust!
- d) He also wants to keep company with the godly; a reminder of the importance of Christian fellowship [see **Heb 10:23-25**].
- e) Refer to **Psalm 42:3-5** and the experience there of not having godly fellowship for a time.
- f) This last verse of our Psalm reminds us of the need to keep focused despite all that is going on around us.